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authenticated details of the courses of study pursued. If a man wants to become a master, mate, engineer in the mercantile marine, skipper or second hand of a fishing vessel, and is willing to devote a few hours a day to study in a camp he can thus have this work counted towards his certificate.

The Ruhleben Camp started a library of its own on Nov. 14, 1914, with 83 books. By July, 1915, there were 2,000 English and American magazines, 300 German books and 130 French books. On the average 250 books a day were taken out. As they had a printer in camp, they decided to print a catalog. The demands that come in now at the enlarged library are varied and curious. Books in fourteen languages have been asked for and supplied. Dictionaries and books on electricity and engineering are constantly in demand. The aim of the organization is to provide every prisoner with exactly the book or books he may desire or need, on any subject or in any language. Bishop Bury, who visited the camp officially, said that there was so much studying going on that he called it the University of Ruhleben. The interned men publish a magazine "In Ruhleben Camp," in which are reflected the various currents of thought among the prisoners.

The committee in charge of the British Prisoners of War Book Scheme is also considering a plan whereby released prisoners in poor circumstances, and especially those living in rural districts and remote parts of the British Isles, will be able to obtain the loan, for the purposes of study, of books which they cannot afford to buy,

and which they cannot borrow from a nearby public library.

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The foregoing is an account of the principal channels through which books are supplied to the troops, but books are also being printed for the fighting men and sent to them at the front by several religious denominations and Bible societies. The secretary of the Religious Tract Society informs me that their organization has supplied the troops with books in twenty-six languages. Thus, they printed selections from the Bible in Malagasi for the men called over by the French, and a book of prayers and songs in three languages for the colored laborers from South Africa. As an illustration of the educational work they have been able to do, mention may be made of a grant they gave a chaplain in the navy who was reading Greek with a stoker on his boat. At the outbreak of the war the stoker of today had been attending college with the idea of preparing himself for the nonconformist ministry. To a German prisoner of war in the Isle of Man the Tract Society had sent upon request some aids to the study of the New Testament.

Another British organization exists solely for the purpose of supplying books to the Russian prisoners of war in Germany. But the story of what it has been able to accomplish had best be told by one of the leading spirits in all things connected with Russian literature in England—Dr. C. Hagberg Wright, librarian of the London Library—and he has kindly written a special article on this phase of the work.

BOOKS FOR THE RUSSIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

By C. T. HAGBERG WRIGHT, *Librarian, London (Eng.) Library*

When a sleeper wakes from a long, unbroken slumber to find himself in a strange environment he is usually slow to realize his novel surroundings. Escape being impossible, he sets about fitting himself for

the work in store, but he does so with misgivings and manifold mistakes. So England, waking to a state of war and striving to meet the demands of unforeseen and terrible conditions, has blundered,

stumbled, agonized, but still held on, while the nation has realized day by day and month by month, the penalties of unpreparedness.

Quickly, and on the whole efficiently, the new citizen army was supplied with equipment, munitions and commissariat. Next the wounded ashore and afloat became the objects of general thought and generosity. All manner of comforts and luxuries were showered on them and, lastly, the sufferings of the prisoners of war were relieved by public and private organizations. But throughout all this vast expenditure of money and of personal effort, there was a prevailing tendency to treat the needs of our forces, whether in the field, the hospital or the prisoners' camp, as essentially material needs. The feeding of their minds came as an afterthought and developed from the tentative efforts of a few civilians.

The attitude of the average well-informed man towards such questions may be illustrated by quoting the chairman of a committee now sitting, who on a recent occasion enquired of the present writer, "And what is the London Library?" The average soldier equally discounts the value of literature and ignores its importance in the national life.

The cry for books, more books, made itself heard continually from all quarters and, lamentably late in the day, we began to realize the mental state of those who are doomed to a life empty of all intellectual occupations or interests. Not only England was remiss and laggard in this matter. The position of the Russian prisoners of war in Germany called for the sympathy and help of all who had ears to hear and means of aiding them, and among their most timely and generous helpers America holds a leading place.

In wartime particularly, the soldier finds scant leisure for books, and merely glances at newspapers and light fiction. Serious reading is commonly confined to members of the War Intelligence department. But in hospital and in captivity it is far otherwise. Debarred from normal employment, depressed by his position, it is only between

the covers of books that he can find relief and pleasure. He would be the first to be indignant with the officer who remarked that in these times "a hairdresser was more useful than a librarian."

The first organized effort in this country to provide Russian prisoners in Germany with Russian books, was a little committee of four persons which I called together in August, 1915. They were Professor Vinogradoff of Oxford as chairman, two Russian ladies and myself.

In October, 1916, in order to comply with Government regulations the committee was enlarged, but the work has been carried on as before. The committee now consists of Mr. Edmund Gosse, C. B., chairman (Professor Vinogradoff having resigned, owing to his departure for Russia); secretary, C. J. Purnell; treasurer, C. T. Hagberg Wright; committee: Professor P. Vinogradoff, Mme. Matheson, Mlle. Ivanitsky; address: London Library, St. James's Square, S. W.

A Russian committee in Holland immediately entered into negotiations with us, and pointed out that the demand for reading matter was quite as urgent as the demand for physical comforts. Through their agency we were first put in touch with many of the camps, and a little later, Countess Benckendorf's committee for supplying food to Russian prisoners also gave us useful information. Let me quote a few typical examples of the kind of letters addressed to us by prisoners, both civilian and military.

The first is from a young girl volunteer who is now a prisoner at Havelburg, who has written asking for a parcel of food. She says: "I am a schoolgirl of nineteen years, and have been a prisoner two and a half years, but what I want is to have some books to study English, if it is possible. Please reply to me."

Another letter from a young soldier is as follows: "I am a student of the Oriental Institute of Vladivostok where I was studying Chinese and Japanese, and now after eighteen months of captivity I find that I have in part forgotten these

languages. If it be possible I should so like to obtain something in these languages, either in Russian or French, to enable me to continue my studies."

A Russian lieutenant begs for some books on jurisprudence such as are now used in the courses of "our institute for the study of neurology and psychology."

An officer in control of the Langensalza camp library says: "Our camp is very large, and there is a continual and extraordinary demand for books. Popular scientific books and books on social questions are most in demand."

Where no specific request has been made, we have sent books of a varied character. For the common soldiers, elementary school books and simple reading books, scientific primers, books on agriculture, and religious books and the works of great Russian writers have been selected.

For the officers we have chosen books of a more advanced description, embracing every conceivable branch of knowledge. A large number of grammars and dictionaries have also been sent, and are in continual request. Roughly, fifty grammars and dictionaries have been despatched to Altdamm—but this is a mere drop in the ocean when one considers that many of the camps number over one thousand men.

The demand for special books of study has as far as possible been complied with, but in a few cases great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining what is wanted in Russian.

Not only have the librarians of various prisoners' camps sent requests for simple reading books for the instruction of the unlettered peasant soldiers, but for technical works on agriculture, bee-keeping, the use of manures, the care of cattle. Russia is peculiarly rich in this type of technical literature. There is no other country with so large an output of popular guides and textbooks of this description, which owe their existence partly to the *Zemstvos* and partly to private enterprise. Their circulation throughout Rus-

sia is enormous and ever increasing, and a Russian pastor in Schneidemühl, in the course of a letter of acknowledgment for presents of literature, remarks that the prisoners have been eagerly devouring the agricultural handbooks. This excellent man, like many of the educated Russians interned in Germany, is occupied in teaching his illiterate companions to read and write, and explaining to them such phrases and technical expressions as present difficulties in the course of their studies. In this connection it may be said that Russian primers and schoolbooks are among the best in the world. Their simplicity and clearness leave nothing to be desired, and the abundance of illustrations give valuable aid to the teacher, be his pupils native or foreign.

It has been remarked that the bulk of the Russian prisoners desire books of instruction rather than light literature, and this fact may be taken as an augury of the future of the great Slav race. The rapidly dawning desire of the mass of the population for education and enlightenment in regard to the world beyond their frontiers, is by its own energy daily fulfilling itself.

The highly educated upper classes of Russia have given ear to the call of their peasant brothers and the gulf fixed between the intellectuals and the illiterates is at length being solidly bridged over. The peasant farmer in time to come may lose something of that childlike faith and obedience to authority which has distinguished him, but he will gain instead, the self-reliance, the spirit of independence, the knowledge of himself and of others which are his birthright. He will realize that "there is no darkness but ignorance."

It may also be mentioned that in accordance with the regulations of the Hague Convention all parcels are sent free of cost. The work in connection with the packing and sending of parcels has been done voluntarily by the staff of the London Library in their spare time.

We have been able to send one or more parcels to eighty-five camps in Germany.

The committee have received very grateful acknowledgments from the Russian prisoners of war, of which I append two specimens:

"I have received your invaluable parcel of books, and I have seen the Light. I cannot tell you how grateful I am."

"In the name of the pupils and masters of the school I send you our sincerest thanks. As one interested in natural history and giving lectures on this subject here, I consider it my duty to thank you specially for the great number of valuable books on natural history which we have received from you."

We have employed the well-known firm of Messrs. Muir and Mirrielies, Petrovka, Moscow, for the purchase of books. This firm has acted with discriminating care, and the chief of their book department, to whom the task of selection was necessarily largely entrusted, has been most zealous in choosing appropriate literature. We have also been assisted occasionally by the advice of personal friends in Russia.

The difficulty, since February, 1917, of obtaining books for Russia has enormously increased, but nevertheless we have been able to send 178 parcels. From the beginning of our activities we have sent 2,164 parcels. For the first quarter of 1917, 401 parcels have been posted to Germany. Reckoned in weight, we have sent approximately eight tons of books to Germany. Each parcel weighs on an average 10½ pounds, 11 pounds being the limit permissible by postal regulations. About 2,000 Russian books were received from sympathizers in Great Britain. Contributions of money have amounted in all to £1,365, of which £1,025 were received as a grant from the National Allied Relief Committee of America, for whose generosity and coöperation we are most grateful. Indeed, our small committee could hardly have undertaken the additional labor of making constant appeals to the public and to private friends.

COÖPERATION IN WAR WORK BETWEEN THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION AND THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BY WILLIAM ORR, *Educational Secretary of the National War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A., New York City*

I suppose I can qualify under one of the counts of the indictment that was so good naturedly given on the make-up of the Young Men's Christian Association, but I believe that is the only count that can be made good against the Association today. The British tell us that they learned how to do the job with the assistance of certain Young Men's Christian Association workers from this country who were so very practical in their suggestions as to be regarded as a little bit worldly. However this may be, the British associations were thoroughly prepared, so that when this tremendous task of the war confronted them they set about that work effectively.

I appreciate the courtesy of your Asso-

ciation giving me this opportunity to present to you a few of the ways whereby, I believe, we can be of assistance in this great work, because we must recognize frankly, if we are to do it effectively, how enormous it is. This requires some imagination. You can see from the report of Mr. Koch that the demands from the British army and the Colonial troops practically ran away with these people for a time, and I have something of that feeling today, as I contemplate the new demands being made upon us in connection with this particular type of service for our troops. So we should plan with care and judgment so that organization and administration shall be such as to meet the demands. Money must be spent freely, even